

Glenda Wiles

From: brothersr@msn.com
Sent: Monday, February 09, 2009 5:52 PM
To: Glenda Wiles
Cc: brothersr
Subject: Letter to the County Commissioners

RECEIVED**FEB 09 2009****Ravalli County Commissioners**

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Dear Ravalli County Commissioners:

For the first time ever in Ravalli County, Ronald Brothers the owner of Brothers Mortuary & Crematory in Hamilton, recovered funds held by Medicaid to pay for the cremation and burial services of Helen Shilt, instead of using funds from the Ravalli County's Indigent Burial Fund. The process took over 72 hours to work through the red tape and bureaucracy to talk with someone that could assist us and we waited for over 4 weeks to retrieve the said funds from the State of Montana, via Ravalli County. The monies actually belonged to Helen Shilt who died at the Valley View Estates Healthcare Center in Hamilton. Usually this money would go back to the State coffers. However, in this case after much discussion with State officials the funds were disbursed to the Ravalli County to help cover her final expenses. Why the State of Montana sent the final expense funds to Ravalli County is unclear.

The amount paid by the State was \$1,200.00, \$30.00 dollars more than what Ravalli County pays. In regards to the Helen Shilt case Ravalli County did not provide any funds to Brothers Mortuary and Crematory. As I understand the policy, Ravalli County is responsible for payment. Given the policy, I don't understand why Ravalli County did not assist as well.

I'm not sure if I will take the time and effort in the future to recover funds held by the State of Montana – I think I'll just refer the case to the County. Even a partial payment from Ravalli County to help cover the additional expenses would have been much appreciated. With a little understanding from some of the County Commissioners, this would've encouraged other Funeral Directors to request funds from the State of Montana, instead of going through the County first.

I look forward to hearing from regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

Ronald E. Brothers

Owner Brothers Mortuary & Crematory

Montana Board of Funeral Service, Secretary/Treasurer

2/10/2009